

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

electrically connecting a first terminal of a measurement device to both wires of a twisted wire pair of a telephone line, said telephone line interconnects a telephone line card with a subscriber;
electrically connecting a second terminal of said measurement device to a common reference; and
performing an impairment line testing on said telephone line from said measurement device toward said subscriber.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein electrically connecting said first terminal comprises short-circuiting between said wires.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said common reference is a ground reference.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein performing said impairment testing comprises using a time domain reflectometer.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein performing said impairment line testing comprises determining the distance between the location of said measurement device and the location of the termination of said telephone line at the premises of said subscriber
6. The method of claim 1, wherein electrically connecting said first terminal comprises electrically connecting said first terminal to both wires of said twisted wire pair of said telephone line at the proximity of a main distribution frame unit.
7. A method comprising:

automatically and sequentially performing an impairment line testing on a plurality of telephone lines, at least a portion of said telephone lines are active telephone lines, without disconnecting said active telephone lines from their respective telephone line cards.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein performing said impairment line testing comprises determining the distance between the location of a measurement device coupled to one of said telephone lines and the location of the termination of said telephone line at its respective subscriber premises.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein performing said impairment line testing comprises coupling a measurement device at the proximity of a main distribution frame unit.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein performing said impairment line testing comprises performing said line testing on one of said active lines when said active line is carrying telephone signals.
11. The method of claim 7 wherein performing said impairment line testing comprises:
 - electrically connecting a first terminal of a measurement device to both wires of a twisted wire pair of one of said active telephone lines, said active telephone line interconnects a telephone line card with a subscriber;
 - electrically connecting a second terminal of said measurement device to a common reference; and
 - performing an impairment line testing on said active telephone line from said measurement device toward said subscriber.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein electrically connecting said first terminal comprises short-circuiting between said wires.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein said common reference is a ground reference.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein performing said impairment testing comprises using a time domain reflectometer.
15. The method of claim 7 further comprising:
 - identifying one of said plurality of telephone lines as a spare telephone line;

electrically connecting a first terminal of a measurement device to a first wire of a twisted wire pair of said spare telephone line;

electrically connecting a second terminal of said measurement device to a second wire of said twisted wire pair; and

performing an impairment line testing on said spare telephone line.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a line selector unit connectable to twisted wire pairs of telephone lines able to select one of said wire pairs for an impairment line testing;

a line status detector to identify the status of said telephone lines; and

a configuration unit coupled to said line selector unit and to said line status detector and able to electrically connect a first terminal of a measurement device to both wires of a twisted wire pair of a selected telephone line and a second terminal of said measurement device to a common reference when said selected telephone line is identified as an active telephone line.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said configuration unit is able to create short-circuit between said wires.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said common reference is a ground reference.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said measurement device is a time domain reflectometer.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

a controller to instruct said measurement unit to perform said impairment line testing.

21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said configuration unit comprises a splitter, said splitter is able to prevent signals having a frequency below a

- predetermined threshold to be transmitted from said measurement unit to said selected telephone line.
22. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said splitter is able to provide substantially low impedance emulating a short-circuit between said first wire and said second wire at frequencies above said predetermined threshold.